

A

SERMON

PREACHED IN THE

Cathedral Church of St. Paul,

ON THE TWENTY-NINTH OF NOVEMBER,

1798.

SERMON

PREACHED BY THE

Reverend Father

OF THE

THE EFFICACY OF COURAGE IN A GOOD CAUSE.

A

SERMON

PREACHED IN THE

Cathedral Church of St. Paul,

BEFORE THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR,

THE ALDERMEN, SHERIFFS,

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONDON,

THE CITY OFFICERS,

THE HONOURABLE THE ARTILLERY COMPANY.

AND THE

TEMPLE BAR AND ST. PAUL'S DISTRICT

MILITARY ASSOCIATION,

ON THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-NINTH OF NOVEMBER, 1798,

BEING THE DAY APPOINTED

BY HIS MAJESTY,

To be observed as a General Thanksgiving to Almighty God

FOR THE LATE GLORIOUS VICTORY OBTAINED BY HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS OF

WAR, UNDER THE COMMAND OF

REAR ADMIRAL LORD NELSON OF THE NILE,

OVER THE FRENCH FLEET, AND FOR OTHER RECENT AND SIGNAL SUCCESSES.

By THOMAS BOWEN, M.A.

CHAPLAIN OF BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL, AND MINISTER OF

BRIDEWELL PRECINCT.

CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD-MAYOR.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY W. WILSON, ST PETER'S HILL, DOCTORS' COMMONS;

AND SOLD BY MESSRS. RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD; ELMSLEY AND
BREMNER, STRAND; AND HATCHARD, PICCADILLY.

MDCCXCVIII.

THE ETHICAL OF TOILET IN A GOOD CASE

STATION

General & Co. of St. Paul

THE ETHICAL OF TOILET IN A GOOD CASE

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GLYN, MAYOR.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, on Thursday the 6th Day of December, 1798.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That the Thanks of this Court be given to the Rev. THOMAS BOWEN, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Honourable the Lord-Mayor, for his excellent Sermon preached before his Lordship, the Aldermen, Sheriffs, the Common Council of the City of London, City Officers, the Honourable Artillery Company, and the Temple-Bar and St. Paul's District Military Association, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, on Thursday the 29th of November last, being the Day appointed by His Majesty to be observed for a General Thanksgiving for the late glorious Successes obtained, under the Blessing of Providence, by His Majesty's Sea and Land Forces, and that he be requested to print the same, and that a Copy thereof be sent to every Member of this Court.

R I X.

GLYN, MAYOR.

The first Court of Aldermen held on Tuesday the 11th Day of December, 1798, and in the thirty-ninth Year of the Reign of King George the Third of Great-Britain, &c.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That the Thanks of this Court be given to the Rev. THOMAS BOWEN, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Honourable the Lord-Mayor, for his excellent Sermon preached before this Court, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, on Thursday the 29th Day of November last, being the Day appointed by his Majesty's Proclamation for a General Thanksgiving, and that he be desired to print the same.

R I X.

GLYN MAYOR

Received of the City of New York
the sum of \$100.00

for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

GLYN MAYOR

Received of the City of New York
the sum of \$100.00

for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

for the year 1900
for the year 1900

TO THE
Right Hon. Sir ^DRICHARD CARR GLYN, Knt.
LORD MAYOR,

THE
WORSHIPFUL THE ALDERMEN,

THE
RECORDER, THE SHERIFFS,

AND THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONDON,

THIS
SERMON,

PREACHED IN THE

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

ON THE TWENTY-NINTH OF NOVEMBER, 1798,

AND PRINTED AT THEIR REQUEST,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR OBEIENT SERVANT,

THOMAS BOWEN.

*Bridewell Hospital,
Dec. 18, 1798.*

TO THE

Right Hon. Sir Richard Carr Glyn, Knt.

LORD MAYOR

WORTHFUL THE ALDERMAN

THE SHERRIFF

AND THE

COMMONS COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONDON

SERMON

PREACHED IN THE

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

ON THE TWENTY-NINTH OF NOVEMBER 1798

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IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR OBEISANT SERVANTS

J. HOLLIS & SONS

Printed by J. H. Johnson

Dec. 18. 1798

DEUTERONOMY, CHAP. XXXI. VER. 6.

BE STRONG, AND OF GOOD COURAGE, FEAR NOT, NOR BE AFRAID OF THEM;
FOR THE LORD THY GOD, HE IT IS THAT DOTH GO WITH THEE; HE
WILL NOT FAIL THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE.

THESE are the words with which Moses, in his last moments, animated the Children of Israel, and exhorted them to endure the hardships which awaited them in their conflicts with the inhabitants of the Land of Canaan. To Joshua, in the presence of all the people, he repeats the same expressions; and, after the death of Moses, God himself encourages Joshua to fortitude and perseverance in the like strong and energetic language—"Have not I commanded

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"thee?"

“ thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid nor
 “ be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee,
 “ whithersoever thou goest.”*

That COURAGE and RESOLUTION are virtues of the first class, in the scale of human excellencies, the genuine feelings of the heart of man are eager to proclaim. Considered on the sole grounds of nature, and of reason, they ever bore the highest estimation among men, and have been distinguished by the most honourable encomiums. Human life is a state of perpetual vicissitude; and it is impossible that we can rightly encounter the various difficulties which it presents, without a due portion of fortitude, and of firmness. If these qualities are wanting, the best concerted plans of individuals must fail, and the various objects of ordinary life cannot be attained. But in the wider, and more complicated concerns of society, their necessity and importance are greatly enhanced. When the happiness of a whole community is at stake, when difficulties perplex, and dangers threaten a NATION, then it is, that men should neither fear, nor be dismayed, but “ be strong, and very courageous.”

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* Joshua i. 9.

The Holy Scripture, which is ever in unison with the dictates of right reason, not only in the text, but in various other passages, is pointed and express in it's exhortations to courage and perseverance. When Joab prepared his troops to attack the Syrians, and the Amorites, "Be of good courage," said he, "and let us play the men for our people, and the cities of our God."* "Be thou strong, and shew thyself a man," were among the last words of David to his son Solomon.† And St. Paul, in arming the Corinthian converts for the Christian warfare, charges them to "quit themselves like men, and be strong."‡

As it is evident from these, and other Scripture exhortations, that we cannot expect the Divine protection without making proportionate exertions, so, in order that our courage may have its full and complete effect, it is necessary that the cause, in which we are engaged, should be such as may interest the Providence of God. Impious, brutal force may succeed for a while, but cannot ultimately prevail. The torrent, that bursts from the mountains, rages with resistless violence, and spreads havock and desolation in it's course; but it's fury, though tremendous, is momentary. The river which it had swollen is soon reduced to its channel, and nature re-assumes

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* 2 Sam. x. 12.

† 1 Kings ii. 2.

‡ 1 Cor. 16. 13.

it's wonted face. The moral, is no less subject to the dominion of God than the natural world : he gives laws to both, and the irregularities of both are corrected by his interposition. He stilleth alike the " Raging of the seas, and the madness of the people."*

If therefore the efforts that we make, are not inconsistent with the great purposes of God's moral government, we have the best reason to hope that our courage and resolution will be effectual. A conscious sense of the justice of our cause, and an humble confidence in the divine protection, as they are the surest ground, so will they be the best support of our fortitude ; we shall indeed be strong and courageous, if we believe that God will not fail, nor forsake us.

That Courage and Resolution, supported by Faith in divine Providence, are the best remedy for public difficulties, what stronger proof can be adduced, than the great and glorious events which now call forth these solemn expressions of our gratitude ?

* Psalm lxxv. 7.—See also Isaiah, xvii. 13, 14. The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters : but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. And behold, at even-tide trouble, and before the morning he is not : this is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

gratitude? THE DIFFICULTIES in which this country has been involved, and from which the victories, which we now celebrate, could alone extricate us, were of no common magnitude. Our religion, our liberty, our property, whatever is gained by the ingenuity of the head, or the labour of the hand, whatever is dear, and truly valuable among men, has been exposed to a hazard never before experienced. We are at war with a people who, professing to give freedom to the nations of Europe, have harrassed them with murders and proscriptions, and whose determined and avowed object is the destruction of the government, and the resources of this country. By dint of arms, and of fraud, they have obtained a degree of force, and an extent of dominion exceeding all calculation. That equipoise of power which checked the stronger, and protected the weaker nations of Europe, was wholly destroyed; the mighty, as well as the mean, lay humbled before them, and their whole concentrated strength was levelled against Britain.

Neither did danger press only from without: a traitorous brood of domestic enemies constantly exercised the vigilance of our government. The poison of disaffection, which failed to operate here, spread but too rapidly in our sister kingdom. There rebellion reared its bloody and gigantic head: the mortal

mortal foe to the prosperity of both people was invited to assist in tearing it from our possession, and a blow was aimed perilous to the security of this country.

Amidst these complicated and increasing difficulties, the Almighty suffered neither the minds of our Counsellors to be confounded, nor the hearts of our warriors to be dismayed. We had a CAUSE better than that of our adversaries, and he inspired us with fortitude to defend it.

To discuss the origin of this tremendous conflict would, in the present state of things, be a superfluous task. But if the uniform conduct of the French rulers, in attempting to excite, in every country, the people against their lawful governors can now permit any one, for a moment, to doubt *who* were the aggressors in this fatal war, what shall be said of their determined hostility, when they arrogantly, and contumeliously dismissed an Embassy of Peace? It is a truth which he that runs may read, that to the voice of Peace they were as deaf, as the adder that stoppeth her ears.

Far be it from us to boast, or to justify ourselves in the fight of God; but, when our cause is known, we trust that we shall not be found with the same demerits, the same
flagrant

flagrant national crimes which have polluted their unhappy country, and rendered it the horror and execration of the world. The heart sickens at the memory of the deeds which they have done. When " blood had flowed like water," on every side of their own land, they hastened to satiate their fury upon the nations around them ; and, in their way to universal empire, to establish in every country the same system of sacrilege, murder, and confiscation, which they had practised in their own. Plunder and dominion were their object, and secret fraud, or open violence the means by which they sought it. No conduct, however cautious, could prevent their attacks ; no submission, however low, assuage their fury. What indeed could be expected but the most frightful excesses which human malignity can perpetrate, when the fear of God, and the restraints of Religion, were utterly thrown aside ? Blessed be his Holy Name ! *we* have not publicly renounced our Saviour ; *we* have not denied the Being, or the Providence of God.

As we have a cause that is just and righteous, so also have we courage and resolution to maintain it. The fortitude with which our Governors have borne up against the difficulties that have surrounded them, and the firmness which the great body of the People has manifested under the pressure of their burthens,

burthens, are themes upon which I would gladly dwell ; but I am called away by the most splendid instance of national valour which the annals of Britain ever supplied.

There never existed a more illustrious example of THE EFFICACY OF COURAGE IN A GOOD CAUSE, than the compleat success, with which divine Providence has crowned the arms of our Sovereign, upon the distant shores of Egypt.—The formidable, and long meditated armament of the Enemy, had failed for the place of it's destination, equipped with every means of success which art or industry could supply.* The flower of a conquering army, conducted under the auspices of a General, whose fortune and resources had never failed him ;—a fleet, manned with the best mariners which they were able to collect, and led by veteran Commanders, who had evinced their prowess, and their loyalty in better times,† —flushed

* “ This Fleet was fitted out at Toulon with the spoils of the arsenal of Venice.
 “ Nothing is overlooked by Providence, whose decrees are not yet at an end.
 “ *Discite Justitiam moniti.*” See *Le Mercure Britannique*, No. IV.

† “ Captain *Du Petit Thouars*, commander of the *Tonnant*, an officer of the
 “ old navy, replete with information, bravery, and amiable qualities, fell a victim
 “ to his devotion, not to the cause of the Revolution, but to the necessity of living,
 “ and to the misery to which his government has reduced all the officers whose
 “ birth, integrity, or principles it suspects.”

“ The

—flushed their hopes, and elevated their ambition. They knew the various points which occupied our Fleets, and they vainly hoped, either to entice them from the harbours which they blocked up, or to encounter a force inferior to their own. But the foresight and energy of our Governors frustrated these presumptuous expectations. Ships, and a Commander were ready; and while every hostile Port in Europe was shut by the vigilance of our Navy, they perceived a British Fleet pursuing them, on the shores of Africk, and of Asia. They did indeed arrive at the place of their destination, glorying in their escape, and exulting in the promised conquest of Egypt. But behold the Providence of God in the government of the world! The very escape in which they rejoiced, was the means of their complete destruction. The determined Leader of our Fleet, who had in vain sought them through the trackless paths of the sea, whom neither difficulties could baffle, nor disappointments discourage, found them in a compact body on the shore of that country which they had so perfidiously invaded. But neither the danger of the coast, nor the strong and formidable

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midable

“ The chief Admiral, *Brueys d'Agailliers*, of an ancient and honourable Family
 “ of Languedoc, and his captain, *Casa Bianca*, who were killed, both belonged to
 “ the navy of the Monarchy. The first rear Admiral, *Blanquet de Cheyla*, who
 “ was dangerously wounded, and taken prisoner, is a gentleman, and an officer
 “ of former days.” *Le Mercure Britannique* par *Mallet du Pan*.

midable position which they occupied, could retard him for a moment. The disciplined band which he led, rushed on with an impetuosity which nothing could withstand : “ they “ were swifter than eagles ; they were stronger than lions.”* With ardour undiminished, they persevered in the long and bloody conflict ; the fate of their dear Country hung upon their efforts ; and, praised be the Lord of Hosts ! they achieved a glorious victory ; a victory which has secured to Britain liberty and existence, and which will shine with unrivalled splendor in the latest annals of time.

But what words can tell—what language can express the praise of THE INTREPID MAN who stood for all that we hold dear, on that triumphant day ? Prodigal of his life, if he might save his Country, he had infused his own ardour into the breasts of his gallant seamen : they felt the impulse, and caught the spirit of his energetic mind, and, though he had fallen, the victory was secure ! But God guarded his precious life, that he might exhibit to surrounding nations the bright example of a HERO and a CHRISTIAN, who, unlike his boasting adversary, does not arrogate to himself, or ascribe to fortune the success of his exploits, but gives the praise to HIM only who is the giver of all victory ! He was saved from death,
that

* 2 Sam. i. 23.

that he might enjoy not only the heart-felt thanks of his own enraptured countrymen, but that he might taste the sublime pleasure excited in his mind by the gratitude of Europe. If security is restored to property, honour to religion, or order to civil life, these blessings are derived from **BRITAIN**; and it is the valour of a **BRITISH FLEET**, and the prowess of a **BRITISH ADMIRAL**, by which, under Providence, they will be recovered to mankind. May God Almighty give him to his native land! There, reposing in the bosom of his Country, may he long witness the blessings which he has secured, and, at his last hour, when his earthly warfare is accomplished, may he feel the sweetest consolations of that Holy Faith which he has so well protected!

But the victory, alas! was not without blood! In the midst of joy and thanksgiving, the brave who fell demand the tribute of our sorrow, and our tears. If war is the punishment of nations, they have sustained the whole weight of it: if God has permitted it to rage for our offences, it is our sin that has contributed to their fall; and they have, in some degree, borne our punishment. They have paid the utmost forfeit that we might be safe; they have died that we might live. Whatever honours, therefore, can grace the dead; whatever comforts can sooth their surviving

viving relatives, these a grateful people will bestow. Britons, we trust, will ever merit that affectionate blessing which the mother of Ruth uttered upon her kinsman—"Blessed are ye
 "of the Lord, who have not left off your kindness to the
 "living and to the dead!"*—But their fall requires not consolation. The debt which they owed to Nature, they have paid to their Country.† They died contending for all that is valuable to man; they died in a solemn act of duty, and they have not died in vain.

Of the efficacy of courage in a good cause, the providence of God has been pleased to give farther accumulated proofs, in the signal defeat of our enemies on the adjacent coast. An invading army, complete in every military equipment, has been captured by the squadrons of England. If they had securely effected a landing, the courage and the zeal of the loyal inhabitants would have been put to a severe test. But they would have been powerfully supported by the exertions of their Sister Island; they would have felt, as they do, the co-operation of the VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS
 of

* Ruth ii. 20.

† O fortunata mors, quæ naturæ debita, pro patriâ est potissimum reddita!

CICERON. PHILIP. xiv.

of this Country. From the heart of the Metropolis, to the farthest Coasts of Ireland, does *their* salutary influence reach. If our troops are in readiness to repel the Enemy, at whatever point he may attack, it is because our houses and our families are safe under the protection of CITIZENS, the strenuous Defenders of their Country.

Having therefore these earnest of the divine favour, let us persevere with a steadiness worthy of the cause in which we are engaged. If we are not wanting to ourselves, God will not be wanting to us; and we have a SOVEREIGN exemplary in firmness of mind, and in reliance upon the providence of God. Let our support of the Government, at this momentous crisis, be constant and unshaken. If our Counsellors are faithful and vigilant; if our Commanders are brave and victorious, it is also necessary that each individual, in his station, should be active, resolute, and determined. We have to counteract the attempts of domestic, as well as of foreign foes. We must not therefore shrink or give way. Audacity must be repelled by courage. Falshood and calumnies by a bold vindication of the truth; and the arts, by which the unwary are assailed, must be held up, and exposed to view, in the broad and open face of day. When the people are flattered and seduced by lying prophets, with the sound of
 “ Peace,

“ Peace, peace, when there is no peace ;* let us beware of joining in the delusive and insidious cry. With France no peace can be safe, but such an one as we have power to compel.—And whence can we derive that power, if not from the glorious victories with which the Almighty has crowned our arms ? The Vantage-ground on which we stand is high and commanding ; and, I trust, we shall never quit it but for a Peace that is honourable and secure.†

But

* Ezekiel xiii. 10.

† Bishop Burnet preached a Sermon before Queen Ann, at St. Paul’s, on the 31st day of December, 1706, being the Day of Thanksgiving for the wonderful successes of that year. The war which then raged, it is well known, had succeeded a peace of short duration. “ While that first war, which was ill smothered by the Treaty of Ryfwick, slept in the thin ashes of a seeming peace, a new conflagration was in it’s immediate courses.”* The following is an extract from the Bishop’s Sermon :

“ We do now all see and feel the effects of that haste, with which we run forwardly into a precipitate peace, and put an undue confidence in a faith that was so little to be depended on. We see what advantages this gave, and the mistrust that it created at home, which has brought us under an uneasy after-game ; and we may justly apprehend more fatal effects if we fall again into the like error, the last would be worse than the first.

“ It is true, *Peace* is a word of an agreeable sound ; it strikes, and has charms in it. God forbid that any who carry the name of a Christian, should resolve against all terms of Peace whatsoever. It would ill become a Minister

* Burke’s two Letters to a Member of Parliament.

But we shall do little good to our country ; we shall make an ill return for the unmerited mercies of God, if we do not exert the same courage and resolution in our spiritual, as in our earthly warfare. As CHRISTIANS, we are engaged in a war, by far more dangerous than that which is waged by our inveterate foes. We have lusts and passions which war in our members ; and these are “ fleshly lusts which war against the “ soul.” When we were baptized into the faith of Christ, we took upon us to fight manfully against sin, the world, and the Devil : these are our most formidable enemies, with whom we must have no peace, no truce, no parley. A Christian’s life is a life of continual warfare ; and the Church of Christ itself is militant upon earth.

Let therefore the success which we have obtained against our enemies, stimulate our exertions as the soldiers and servants of Christ. When God has enabled us to vanquish our temporal foes, shall we suffer ourselves to be led away captives by sin and Satan ? Shall we be loyal and valiant in the cause of men, but traitors and cowards in the cause of Christ ?

In

“ Minister of the Prince of Peace to sound the trumpet of War : but a false,
 “ delusory *Peace*, a *Peace* in which any confidence is put in a faith so often, and
 “ so impudently broken ; a *Peace* that may lay us open to new wars, and may
 “ involve us in new dangers ; such a *Peace* is certainly an OPIATE that may give
 “ a present quiet, but that will have a terrible awakening, if it does not make us
 “ sleep, the SLEEP OF DEATH.”

In a cause, in which we have the surest and most unqualified promise of divine assistance? We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us!—Let us then watch, and stand fast in our faith; let us quit ourselves like men, like Christians, and be strong. Let us take unto ourselves the whole armour of God, that we may be able to withstand all the assaults of our spiritual enemies. So shall we acquire strength to encounter all human dangers. Whatsoever we do, or whithersoever we go, we shall ensure to ourselves the presence and protection of God. He will save us from our enemies, and from the hands of all that hate us; and the oath that he swore unto Abraham, he will make good unto us, “that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, may serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”*

* Luke i. 74, 75.

F I N I S.



Lately published by the same Author,

THE DUTY OF LOVING OUR COUNTRY. A SERMON preached at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, on Sunday, July 22, 1798, before the TEMPLE-BAR AND ST. PAUL'S DISTRICT MILITARY ASSOCIATION. Price 1s.

